

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH November 25, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; and Robert Bollengier. Member William Munroe was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present. Student Member Katherine Matook arrived at 7:04 p.m. and left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Maher read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Superintendent Geismar acknowledged that tonight is Member Maher's and Member Munroe's last School Committee meeting. He noted that Member Munroe is not present at this time. Dr. Geismar said that Members Maher and Munroe have served this committee and the community well for the past four years. Dr. Geismar and Chair DeSack thanked Member Maher for his time and

service and wished him the best as he goes forward. Member Maher was presented with a recognition certificate and a School Committee Apple Recognition Award.

Student Member Matook arrived at this time, (7:04 p.m.).

Member Maher commented that he is honored and privileged to have served on the School Committee. He expressed his opinion that together the Committee has come a long way and has achieved a lot in four years. Member Maher expressed his thanks to Committee members.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Matook gave an overview of current and recent senior high school activities and events. She reported that a recent food drive resulted in the delivery of 610 pounds of food to the RI Food Bank. EWG's first debate tournament took place recently and was a great success. Jarrid Trudeau placed 1st out of 76 teams and Jenn Pigoga placed 2nd. DECA students raised \$2,000 through its prison ball tournament and DECA's Christmas project is underway.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollengier requested to pull consent agenda item, Bills

Student Member Matook left the meeting at this time, (7:09 p.m.).

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In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry regarding the expenditure for monitors on buses, Director of Administration Robert Ross said that First Student aggregates these charges. The District has requested details and those details will be provided at the next cycle. Member Bollengier said that he withdraws his request to pull consent agenda item, Bills based on Mr. Ross' statement that he will provide documentation from First Student that will show the disaggregation for each monitor.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of November 12, 2008

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

6. Non-Renewals

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$489,544.76

D. Home School Approvals

1. IVES – Alexander, Jennifer

End Consent Agenda

The Correspondence was reviewed.

After a brief discussion regarding Correspondence (1), consensus of the Committee is to schedule a comprehensive NECAP science results review/presentation for the January 27, 2009 School Committee meeting. The presentation will include detailed graphs and analysis. Science teachers will be invited to attend the meeting.

In response to Chair DeSack's comments concerning Correspondence (2), Superintendent Geismar said that the enclosed Presentation Schedule is not related to the Budget Development Timeline that was brought to the November 12th School Committee meeting. Since Chair DeSack was not present at that meeting, Dr. Geismar advised her that the Committee decided that the Budget Development Timeline will come to the December 9, 2008 meeting with budget workshop dates consolidated. Vice Chair Cicero said that because her work schedule will have been set by the December 9th meeting, she will not have flexibility. Superintendent Geismar said

that the suggested timeline will be presented December 9th but that ultimately the Committee will decide on the dates. Chair DeSack reminded Superintendent Geismar and Robert Ross to present the

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Committee with the best budget to operate the District after having met with Administrators.

Member Walsh referenced Correspondence (3) and asked if the Committee should discuss, prior to the next time negotiations take place, a more conservative way to complete negotiations. She said that the District paid for a lot of time that was spent sitting and waiting. Chair DeSack advised that the money spent was not just for negotiations. Member Bollengier said that he agrees the amount spent is a fair amount of money, but to remember to spread the cost over a four year period. Negotiation team members responded to Vice Chair Cicero's suggestions regarding ground rules. Chair DeSack explained that the mediator determines how negotiations run and the team has to abide regardless of the ground rules. Member Maher said that he had sent an e-mail a couple of days ago to Administration to push for these figures. Chair DeSack interjected and reminded Member Maher that all requests must come through the chairperson. Member Maher acknowledged Chair DeSack's comment. He expressed that he must agree with team members to divide the cost over a four year period. Member Maher expressed his

opinion that the District made a good investment for the money it spent.

Correspondence – (1) 11/20/08 Memorandum and Graphs to School Committee from Nancy Daley regarding NECAP Science Results – Grades 4 & 8; (2) School Committee Presentation Schedule for 2009; (3) November 25, 2008 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding Legal Fees

Monthly Status Report(s) – Maintenance – Superintendent Geismar explained that the two reports provided by Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley, at the request of Member Bollengier, give an account of the ongoing preventive maintenance schedule and the summertime maintenance work list. In response to Member Walsh’s inquiry, Dr. Geismar confirmed that the District is responsible for annually testing the emergency generator at Metcalf School. Chair DeSack confirmed that the generator testing shall become part of the maintenance schedule once the testing is initiated. In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry, Superintendent Geismar said that information will be brought to the next School Committee meeting, as part of the Maintenance Status Report, concerning who will maintain the athletic fields/complex.

NEW BUSINESS – 2008/009 Budget Summary – In response to Member Bollengier’s request to review the budget with Director of Administration Robert Ross prior to the January budget meetings,

Chair DeSack said that there have been a lot of sidebar discussions and it is in the best interest of the Committee if the discussion is had in front of the entire School Committee. Superintendent Geismar advised that a freeze on spending has been issued. Chair DeSack informed members that because of the sidebars that have been going on, she requested that an e-mail be sent to Town Council and School Committee members for a joint meeting on December 16th to discuss, (a.) the school district's issue with the Charter configuration and (b.) the Towns' budgetary

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concerns. Chair DeSack emphasized that the joint meeting is not a budget discussion. Mr. Ross asked the Chair for confirmation that prior to the December 16th joint meeting, there should be no discussion through his office regarding the budget. Chair DeSack confirmed and said that there is nothing to discuss. Chair DeSack requested that the budget projections that Mr. Ross typically brings to the Committee in January, be brought to the next regular meeting in December. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Chair DeSack said that the Committee can expect to receive a hard copy of the end-of-year auditor report at the second regular meeting in January.

Change Nextel Phones to Verizon Phones – Director of Administration Robert Ross requested that the School Committee

approve his recommendation to change the District mobile phone provider from Nextel to Verizon. The change will result in a reduction in the amount of phones from 40 to 35, better communication; as testing has shown that the Verizon network has no dead zones across the district, and an annual cost increase of \$285. Mr. Ross answered members' clarifying questions regarding the Verizon contract agreement options, managing personal use charges, and the option to combine one's personal cell phone with one's District cell phone in order to eliminate having to carry two phones. Members expressed their opinions regarding combining personal and District cell phones. Chair DeSack advised that since the cell phones were just introduced last year, District cell phones will remain separate from personal cell phones for now.

Member Maher made a motion to change from the current carrier to Verizon, with a fiscal impact of an additional \$285 to change providers to improve reception. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that Metcalf's gymnasium was opened to Youth Hoops on November 15th and that the grate and door construction are not completed yet. Member Maher reported that at tonight's practice he talked with parents after he witnessed them taking the bars off of the doors and students with drinks in the bleachers. He voiced his opinion that it will be difficult to police the area and the

District cannot hire a janitor to oversee the gymnasium. Member Maher offered to call the president of Youth Hoops to ask him to speak with the coaches about enforcing the gymnasium rules. Chair DeSack said that eventually the doors will be alarmed. She recommended Member Maher to suggest that at each game Youth Hoops assigns a parent monitor.

REPORTS/COMMENTS –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, December 9, 2008-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 13, 2008-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 27, 2008-School Committee Meeting

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Chair DeSack reminded members of the tentative December 16, 2008 joint meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. Vice Chair Cicero voiced her opinion that it is important to have Mr. Ross prepare to discuss the budget at the joint meeting. Chair DeSack emphasized that the budget will not be discussed at the joint meeting. The Town of West Greenwich has budget issues they want the School Committee to be aware of. The School Committee will take that information to use during its budget process. Vice Chair Cicero said that this is the School Committees' opportunity to dialog

about the future and time is of the essence. Chair DeSack said that the School Committee needs to review the information prior to discussing it with the Towns. Member Bollengier expressed that he is in agreement with Chair DeSack that it is improper to go to the Town Councils with numbers when the District has not seen the numbers yet. Vice Chair Cicero said that she does not care if last year's figures or hypothetical numbers are presented. She stressed that she feels it is important that Town Council members receive a visual to better understand next year's budget. Chair DeSack said that she now has a better understanding of what Vice Chair Cicero is asking for and agrees. She said she will work to put something together to present and will send it out to School Committee members before the December 16th joint meeting date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 –

ADJOURNMENT – Member ~~~~~~~~~Bollengier moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.

**ROBIN CERIO
CLERK**